

**For Immediate Release**

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**RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS \$2,000 DISCUS SCHOLARSHIP**

*Jessica Yang was named the January 2011 Discus Scholarship winner by the Discus Awards, a national program that provides recognition and scholarship opportunities for multi-talented students who demonstrate excellence both inside and outside of school*

<http://www.discusawards.com/>

**Bethesda, MD (February 2, 2011)** – Jessica Yang, a senior at Richard Montgomery High School in Maryland, was named the recipient of the January 2011 Discus Scholarship, a national college scholarship that provides \$2,000 to ten multi-talented high school students each year who demonstrate excellence both inside and outside of school.

A scientist at heart and in practice, Jessica has combined her passion for science with her commitment to serving her community to found Kids Are Scientists Too (KAST), a non-profit organization devoted to bringing interactive science education to elementary school students. As the founder of KAST, Jessica wrote lesson plans and recruited many of her peers to help deliver science education to the students. KAST now has 10 teams reaching out weekly to more than 250 elementary school students.

As part of her own scientific endeavors, Jessica designed and managed her own molecular biology lab project. After completing the project, she wrote a research paper explaining her findings with the help of her mentor, which found that if the results of her research become easily replicable on a large scale, they could lead to the development of new treatments for diseases such as organ failure, Alzheimer's, and Hemophilia.

Even with all of her activities outside of school, Jessica still maintains a strong presence in the classroom. So much so, in fact, that an essay Jessica wrote about the importance of healthcare is currently being used to help develop supplemental curriculum for Washington, D.C. public schools.

Jessica embodies the mission of the Discus Awards ([www.DiscusAwards.com](http://www.DiscusAwards.com)), the organization behind the Discus Scholarship. Launched in November 2009, the Discus Awards looks beyond test scores, grades, and athletics to recognize students whose multi-dimensional talents and passions span three of ten attributes, including community service, work, technology, athletics, academics, and the arts.

The \$2,000 Discus Scholarship is awarded to one Discus Award winner each month of the school year. In addition to becoming eligible for a Discus Scholarship, Discus Award winners are profiled on the Discus Awards site ([www.discusawards.com/winners](http://www.discusawards.com/winners)) and [Facebook page](#), providing them with a powerful new tool for showing colleges the full range of their diverse strengths and interests. Students can apply for a Discus Award throughout the year.

Since its soft launch in November 2009, the Discus Awards has attracted tens of thousands of nominees from every state in the U.S. plus D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Winners are selected by a judging panel of teachers, counselors, and education professionals.

“With her energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to service, academics and her work in the lab, Jessica exemplifies everything the Discus Scholarship stands for,” said Devin Schain, CEO of the Discus Awards

and Campus Direct. “At a time when it’s harder than ever to pay for college, we’re giving recognition and support to the kind of leaders who will thrive in a world that increasingly requires creative thinking, dedication, and a wide range of strengths.”

Students may nominate themselves for a Discus Award at [www.DiscusAwards.com](http://www.DiscusAwards.com), or be nominated by parents, teachers, counselors, coaches, or friends. They are then asked to submit references and write short essays describing their accomplishments in three out of ten major categories, or attributes, of student life: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Community Service, Faith, Government, Green, Technology, Work, and Other Achievements.

To show that they are more than just words on a page, nominees also are encouraged to upload photos and videos that illustrate their achievements.

The Discus Awards was created by Campus Direct, a burgeoning boutique global education company, and Recognition Media, the owner and producer of major awards programs including The Webby Awards and The Telly Awards.

To nominate yourself or someone you know, please visit [www.DiscusAwards.com](http://www.DiscusAwards.com).

### **About The Discus Awards**

The Discus Awards ([www.DiscusAwards.com](http://www.DiscusAwards.com)) is the only awards and scholarship program honoring active and engaged high school students who excel in and out of school. Looking beyond grades, test scores, and win-loss records, the Discus Awards recognizes students for achievement in at least three areas, from community service and work to faith and the arts. Winners are selected by a panel of teachers, counselors, and education professionals, and each winner is eligible for a \$2,000 college scholarship awarded each month of the school year. The Discus Awards is presented by Campus Direct, a burgeoning boutique global education company, and Recognition Media, the owner and producer of major awards programs, including The Webby Awards and The Telly Awards.

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